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*Epistolario di Luigi Carlo Farini.* Per cura di LUIGI RAVA. Con Lettere inedite di Uomini illustri al Farini e Documenti. (Bologna: Nicolà Zanichelli. 1911-1914. Pp. lxii, 837; xlviii, 799; cxv, 621.)

*La Giovinezza di un Dittatore, Luigi Carlo Farini, Medico.* Per LUIGI MESSEDAGLIA. Con Introduzione di LUIGI RAVA. [Biblioteca Storica del Risorgimento Italiano, Serie VII., N. 12.] (Milan, Rome, Naples: Albrigi, Segati, e Compagnia. 1914. Pp. lxii, 553.)

AFTER Chiala's well-known publication of Cavour's *Lettere edite ed inedite*, and Menghini's scholarly and exhaustive national edition of Mazzini's *Scritti editi ed inediti*, this *Epistolario* of Luigi Carlo Farini must be ranked as the most important publication that has been undertaken upon the history of Italy's Risorgimento from 1815 to 1870. The eleven volumes of Baron Ricasoli's *Lettere e Documenti* also constitute a source of first-rate importance, but Ricasoli's work was primarily of local Tuscan interest down to 1859, while his achievements of that year and of his later public life were, generally speaking, already largely understood from public documents outside his own archives. Farini's virile activity and devoted personal sacrifice for the national weal cover a wider field and were of no less vital import. After the "Big Four" who made modern Italy (Cavour, Victor Emmanuel II., Mazzini, and Garibaldi), Farini may well take his place in the national biography as Italy's first public citizen in point of ability, while his actual services as a statesman, in the accomplishment of national independence and unity, rank with those of Massimo d'Azeglio and Ricasoli. A national edition of d'Azeglio's correspondence and works should follow as the next important addition to the *Rerum Italicarum Scriptores* of the Risorgimento.

It is fortunate that Farini's important private archives have fallen into the hands of such a competent scholar as Luigi Rava, himself a statesman of distinction. It was the testamentary wish of Farini's son, Domenico Farini, president of the Italian Senate, that Farini's papers should be published, out of justice to his memory, and after the death of Domenico Farini in 1900, the family entrusted them to Rava. But as politics had robbed Italy of a great physician in Luigi Carlo Farini, so to-day politics have done their best to rob Farini of his editor and biographer. Since he undertook the publication of the *Epistolario* Rava has twice been called to hold portfolios in Italian ministries, those of Commerce and Public Instruction successively, and to-day he has entered the recently formed Salandra ministry with the portfolio of Finance.

This extenuating circumstance of the preoccupations of high public office disarms the critic of the *Epistolario* who would complain to the editor of the almost total absence of explanatory notes that characterizes the three volumes thus far published; complete notes would have

added immeasurably to the value of the work. It must have been no small sacrifice for a student such as Rava, possessed of sound historical method, to publish the correspondence in this nude fashion; many of the letters are of absolutely no interest without a detailed knowledge of the circumstances and conditions under which they were written. But it certainly has been much better to give the correspondence to the light as it is, than it would have been to delay publication further. The volumes contain a mass of new material that is indispensable to the just appreciation of many events of the Risorgimento period; the competent student can supply his own commentary, and furthermore Rava has solemnly promised to publish eventually a volume of biography and notes. As Italian ministries are not eternal, the historian has reason to expect that Rava will in good time be able to fulfill his pledge. The important introductions which he has prefixed to the first and third volumes, and which, with some alterations, had been previously published in the *Nuova Antologia* of April 1, 1911, and November 16, 1913, exhibit keen critical ability and a wide historical knowledge. Together they give an excellent biographical sketch of Farini down to 1851. No good life of Farini has been heretofore published, and such as there were, have been proved to be rich in misstatements, by the present *Epistolario*.

Rava has happily printed Farini's letters without omissions, and has supplemented them by a great number of letters of correspondents addressed to him, and also by a few letters, not by Farini, addressed to others; in the third volume the letters of Farini's correspondents considerably surpass in number those written by him. This suggests that many other of his letters may yet come to light. Three letters of Cesare Balbo to Farini are given, but none from Farini to Balbo excepting the published dedication of his *Lo Stato Romano*. But Balbo's archives are known to have been preserved and at least a few good Farini letters addressed to Balbo exist. Farini's letters to Marco Minghetti as given in the *Epistolario* had all been previously published in the latter's *Ricordi*, excepting two relatively unimportant letters regarding a certain Maggi. But Minghetti's papers, which have been deposited by his widow in the Archiginnasio of Bologna, will be unsealed in about ten years, and important unpublished letters of Farini may then be expected, particularly of the period subsequent to 1859, the year with which Minghetti's *Ricordi* end.

The arrangement of the letters is chronological, and the volumes are furnished with excellent indexes of the persons to whom and by whom they are addressed. Several of the letters, particularly in the second volume, are without date, but when Rava prepares his notes he will certainly be able to supply dates to some of these from internal evidence. The letter without date numbered 47 (f) was written on April 11, 1848, as is shown by mention of the "Demonstration against the Treasurer", which took place on that morning. Letter numbered 204 is of September 13, 1848.

Of the letters addressed to Farini a number are from d'Azeglio, unpublished and of particular importance; there are also many notes from Minghetti written when he was Minister of the Interior of Pius IX. in 1848, and when Farini was under-secretary. These and the unpublished letters of many other correspondents and of Farini himself in the period, reveal the state of mind from day to day of the government of Pius IX. during the revolution, and also of the high functionaries in different parts of the Pontifical States; as an historical source this collection of documents is much more important than Farini's four volumes, *Lo Stato Romano*, published 1850-1853, with a political purpose.

The evolution of Farini's own political creed is one of the most interesting revelations of the new documents. On March 28, 1848, Farini wrote (II. 147-148): "I do not understand how brains can conceive the dream of concentrating the government of Italy in the hands of one single prince! I do not know, I do not understand it, even if one looks to a distant future. Now, it is more than a dream, it is delirium, it is madness, it is more than madness, it is moral and political infamy. . . . The unity of Italy . . . consists and must consist in unity of laws, in the federation of national princes under the presidency of the Papacy." Yet fifteen years later Farini was prime-minister of Victor Emmanuel II., king of Italy, in the unification of which Farini had himself figured as one of the most enthusiastic leaders. Farini's political evolution is typical of that of many of Italy's ablest statesmen.

The principal collection of Farini's letters heretofore published consisted of less than one hundred of his letters; the present three volumes contain over 850, besides those of his correspondents; and they come down only to 1851. In the many volumes that must follow we shall have still more important new documents, covering the period of Farini's advocacy of the Crimean expedition, his great achievements as dictator of Emilia in 1859, his work as Piedmontese Minister of the Interior at the time of the expedition of the Thousand in 1860, his royal lieutenancy at Naples in 1861, and his brief term as prime-minister, 1862-1863, which terminated with his death.

The first two volumes of the *Epistolario* have already served for the preparation of a new biography of Farini's "youth" down to 1849, by Luigi Messedaglia, published in the important collection, *Biblioteca Storica del Risorgimento Italiano*. It is a serious historical study, devoted primarily to Farini's labors as a physician, and based in considerable part upon unpublished medical papers of Farini furnished to the writer by Rava. The most valuable part of the volume is the preface by Rava, which contains, among other unpublished documents, seven letters addressed by Farini to Sansone d'Ancona in 1845, which came to light too late to be included in the *Epistolario*.

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